(c) how would the new drug policy ensure the availability of essential drugs to the public at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) (a) and (b) The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 (DPCO, 1987) was notified in the Gazette on 26th August, 1987 and copies thereof were laid on the Table of the House on 27th August, 1987. Details are available in the Order.

(c) Necessary mechanism has been provided in the DPCO, 1987 to ensure availability of essential drugs to the public at reasonable prices.

Import of Tyres

209. SHRI S. S. AHULWALIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have aken a decision to import various types of tyres from certain foreign countries;

(b) if so, the names of those countries and the reasons for such import;

(c) whether Indian Companies are not capable of manufacturing the kind of tyres which are being imported; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when such tyres are likely to be manufactured in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Strategy to boost productivity

210. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has recently initiated a strategy of fixing higher targets in all its activities to boost productivity;

(b) if so, the details of the new strategy; and

(c) to what extent the target of self sufficiency in oil and gas is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ONGC have initiated following measures to improve efficiency and performance in its operations to ensure growth with stability and continuous improvement in productivity:—

—introduction of new equipment incorporating the state of art and the latest technological innovations.

—Resources optimisation through farming out low technology areas to outside agencies through cooperatives/ ancillary units thereby concentrating high technology areas.

—modernisation and rehabilitation of existing rigs/facilities equipment.

—introduction of improved productivity and performance based incentive scheme.

—re-structuring of organisation on the concept of Business Groups with centralised policy making and decentralised administration.

—introduction of profit centre concept.

—launching of computer based management system for technical and business applications.

—commercial Human resources development.

(c) While the requirement of gas will be fully met, the self-sufficiency in crude oil at the close of 7th Plan would be about. 61 per cent.

Oil refining Industry

211. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Centre to assess the future technological requirements of the oil refining industry and also acquire, develop and adopt appropriate technologies for the purpose;

(b) if so, when was the Centre set up;

(c) whether any achievements have been made by the Centre so far; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) On 27th May, 1987.

(c) and (d) The Centre was set up only a few months back and has just embarked on its work. It has so far published the first issue of a quarterly technical journal which features various developmental programmes and achievements of indigenous refineries as well as latest technological trends. Activity Committees have also been constituted recently to identify areas of improvement and technological advancements.

Use of natural gas supplied through HBJ gas pipeline

212. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a report published in the weekly 'Blitz' dated 29th August, 1987 with the caption '3000 Cr. sunk in HBJ pipedream';

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) what are the names of the three private sector fertilizer companies which were supposed to consume the bulk of natural gas but have been dragging their feet;

(d) what action has been taken against these private sector companies; and

(e) what arrangements have now been made by Government to make use of this natural gas and find new consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Three fertilizer plants at Sawaimadhopur (Aravali Fertilizers) Babrala (Tata Fertilizers) and Shahjahanpur (Appeejay) are expected to be delayed.

Fertilizer plants are delayed mainly on account of delay in selection of suitable sites, securing environmental clearances, formal transfer of land and finalisation of contractual arrangement for consultancy.

(e) The possibility of supply gas to additional consumers is being explored with a view to utilise the pipeline to the maximum extent possible.

Misuse of LPG cylinders meant for domestic users

213. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a difference in the price of LPG cylinder meant for domestic consumers and commercial consumers; if so, what is the difference;